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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
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FROM: AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

12065: GDS 6-11-85 (CASTRO, Raúl H.) OR-M

TAGS: AR, SHUM

S. Jacobo Timerman Meets with Ambassador

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES 4701

1. (C - Entire Text)

2. Mrs. Jacobo Timerman, Israel resident up to a few weeks ago, called on me at Chancery on Friday (June 8) to review her husband's detention by GOA. Mrs. Timerman appeared to be in extraordinarily good spirits. She is a very attractive middle-aged lady.

3. Gratitude to USG and People: Mrs. Timerman opened by thanking me profusely for visiting her husband on April 12. She also conveyed her gratitude to USG and the American people for the consistent efforts to liberate her husband. She acknowledged the main thrust of action comes from the United States. She spoke with an air of disappointment on the minimal effort expanded by European countries, including Israel. Mrs. Timerman stated European countries talk a big storm on human

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rights but it remains as all talk.

4. Jacobo Timerman's Mental Outlook: Mrs. Timerman stated she has lived with Jacobo Timerman for twenty-nine years and has never seen him as depressed and discouraged as now. She described how a few days ago he had cried like a baby and had to hold him in her arms to comfort him. She expressed deep concern about Jacobo's mental status. I told her during my visit to her husband on April 12, 1979 he appeared strong, confident and full of steam. She attributed that to play acting as he was trying to impress me with his "machismo." Mrs. Timerman shrugged her head and said after all he is Argentine and in many instances Latin characteristics still predominate in his personality.

5. Letter to Junta: I inquired about a certain letter being written by Jacobo to the Junta. Mrs. Timerman explained a draft had already been sent to GOA officials but it had been returned. Supposedly contents of draft sent consisted of request by her husband to be permitted to go to Israel on humanitarian grounds as well as on legal grounds. He spelled out fact he was not under PEN, therefore, not eligible to apply for right of option. When draft came back GOA officials scratched out phrase "not under PEN, therefore, not eligible for right of option" and inserted "inasmuch as I am detained under the PEN

I'm subject to make application for release under right of option." This has seriously upset Jacobo Timerman. A second draft is being prepared by Jacobo and his attorney but Mrs. Timerman professed ignorance of contents of same. She promised to send me a copy of proposed new draft. For more details on draft letter see paragraph five of Buenos Aires 4672.

6. Israeli Ambassador: Mrs. Timerman stated her husband had worked very close with Israeli Ambassador for past few years, but now had lost faith in him. I explained to Mrs. Timerman of high regard held for Israeli Ambassador Nirgad in DipCorps. I also added I found Ambassador Nirgad to be a real professional and of his devoted and high interest in her husband's case. I concluded by stating Ambassador Nirgad and I worked very closely in our efforts to obtain her husband's freedom. It became apparent she was pleased to hear my comments on Nirgad. See Buenos Aires 4672, paragraph five.

7. Timerman the Braggadocio: Mrs. Timerman told me Rabbi Myer, her husband's spiritual counsellor, had suggested to her husband to be careful in what he told his visitors, as room was probably "bugged." Mrs. Timerman described her husband as not normally a braggart, but when he felt oppressed a manifestation of exaggeration appeared. To sum it up, Mrs. Timerman stated her husband's

main objective was to leave and forget Argentina ever existed. She said her husband had no desire to write, speak or lecture about his experiences while incarcerated. She felt her husband is not mentally capable at this point to do any of these things. It was made clear to Mrs. Timerman it was not intention of USG to silence her husband now nor in the future. This was solely their decision. Mrs. Timerman replied their priority was to get him out of Argentina and worry about phase two after her husband's freedom had been obtained.

8. Timerman Son to New York: Pleased as can be, Mrs. Timerman stated her youngest son would be representing her husband in one of the New York Universities to receive an award. She also added this same son would probably remain in New York City as he was engaged to a young lady from that City. She also stated her son might obtain employment with the Staff of Senator Kennedy.

9. Mrs. Timerman left as radiant and sparkling as when she had arrived. She repeated her promise to send me a copy of second draft and also to coordinate activities with Israeli Ambassador.

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(CONTINUATION SHEET)

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